

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 021830Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 385

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BE

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ENTER CRUCIAL
PHASE

REF: BRUSSELS 1943

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BELGIAN SOCIAL CHRISTIANS AND
SOCIALISTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIPARTITE GOVERNMENT
ARE EXPECTED TO REACH THE CRUCIAL STAGE THIS WEEK FOLLOW-
ING ANNOUNCEMENT BY FORMATEUR LEO TINDEMANS THAT PER-
LIMINARY TALKS WITH THE FOUR PRESIDENTS OF THE FLEMISH
AND FRANCOPHONE WINGS OF THE TWO PARTIES HAD BEEN
COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY. TINDEMANS RESUMED TALKS APRIL
1, ADDING THREE PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH OF THE PARTY WINGS.

2. INCLUSION IN EXPANDED TALKS OF A PARTY TECHNICIANS,
OF RELATIVELY FEW PERSONS OF MINISTERIAL CALIBER (ONLY
FORMER MINISTERS VANDEN BOEYNANTS, CHABERT, CALIFACE,
AND CLAES), AND OF SOCIALISTS CONSIDERED PARTISANS
OF A PERIOD OF "THERAPEUTIC OPPOSITION" FOR THEIR
PARTY SIGNIFIES THE ONSET OF SERIOUS AND HARD BARGAIN-
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ING WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL ENSURE THE FULLEST

POSSIBLE SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
AMONG SOCIALIST LEADERS, THOSE WHO PREFER PARTICIPA-
TION IN GOVERNMENT HAVE GAINED THE ASCENDENCY IN THEIR
PARTY, WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED, BUT THEY ALSO SEEK TO
ENSURE THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT RECEIVES THE FIRMEST
POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT BY A FORTHCOMING SOCIALIST CONGRESS.
IN 1973, DELEGATES TO THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS ENDORSED
THE SOCIALIST-LED GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON
BY A THIN 57 PERCENT.

3. THE GOAL IS A GOVERNMENT BEFORE EASTER. ACCORDING
TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET (NOPPEN) CONCERN
FOR THE STABILITY OF THE FRANC AND HENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT
HAS ACTED AS A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TOWARDS EARLY AGREEMENT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE01995
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740073-0838
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740475/aaaacqwe.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRUSSELS 1943
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGOTIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ENTER CRUCIAL PHASE
TAGS: PINT, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005